For millions living with T1D.

A great time to do it! Your commitment will make a lasting impact.

If you’ve thought about including JDRF in your estate plans, now’s the time.

Our generous Legacy Challenge sponsors will donate $1,000 each and help ensure that T1D research continues until a cure is found.

It’s truly inspiring to see how one person can make such a difference. We’ll never forget Leo Caiafa’s contribution and what it will do to make life better for people living with T1D.

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LEGACY CHALLENGE UPDATE: 35 NEW PLEDGES IN UNDER TWO MONTHS

The Legacy Challenge is off to a fantastic start! Within its first two months, we’ve learned of 35 supporters who have included JDRF in their estate plans. This means that our Legacy Challenge sponsors will donate $35,000 to support current research. We look forward to seeing more progress throughout 2017.

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Mother’s Day has special meaning for moms with T1D

First-time mom Toni Fatka tear up talking about her plans for Mother’s Day. Besides celebrating the birth of her baby boy, Oliver, she’s excited for a new tradition: going to church to be recognized with all the other moms, then having brunch with her family.

Toni is grateful for modern medicine. Because of it, she is celebrating one of the happiest times in her life — so is her entire family. Ever since Valentine’s Day 2000 when Toni was 12, she’s lived with type 1 diabetes (T1D). After Toni suddenly became ill, Toni’s mom rushed her to the doctor. At the time of her diagnosis, Toni was drastically unhealthy, weighing just 80 pounds at 5’6”.

Although Toni’s battle with T1D has always been personal, the birth of Oliver on February 21, 2017, has changed her motivation to support JDRF and its mission.

“Before Oliver, I was focused on myself. I wanted better treatments for me — a cure for me. Of course those things are still very important, but now as a mom, I’m not focused on myself anymore; I’m focused on my son and making sure he doesn’t experience a second living with T1D. Oliver has a lot of life to live, and I don’t want TID getting in the way for him or any other child.”

Toni always knew she wanted a family — T1D or not. A year before she married her husband, Lucas, she started being diligent in her care to lower her A1C to 6.5% in order to succeed in having a healthy pregnancy. She used her continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) device to control blood sugar spikes and crashes. She kept her alarms on while she slept. Toni was vigilant, but she knew that technology was on her side, too.

Toni is grateful for JDRF’s research and support of CGMs. Because of this technology, she was able to deliver a healthy 9 pound, 4 ounce baby boy at 38 weeks and 6 days. In Toni’s words, “JDRF funded early support of CGM creation just as I was graduating high school. To come full circle and now use the technology I fundraised for through my walk team is very rewarding. My life is so much better because I can control my TID and pinpoint blood sugar to keep it in a tighter range. I couldn’t do those things before. I know that having these treatments and technologies during pregnancy saved my life — it saved Oliver’s too.”

Even before Oliver was born, Toni and Lucas set their sights on the future. Last year, the couple became Beta Society members. Whether or not progress happens in their lifetime, they want to find the best possible solution for TID.

“We knew that if something happened to us we’d want money to go to JDRF to make sure our kids wouldn’t ever have to live with TID. JDRF and the research it funds were important before we had Oliver and still are — no matter what.”

“Oliver has a lot of life to live, and I don’t want TID getting in the way for him or any other child.”

Today, Toni works for JDRF as the Planned Giving Manager and feels that...
Whether you’ve walked for T1D, attended Galas or donated, you might be searching for a meaningful way to support T1D research. The good news is, you can! By donating a portion of your estate to JDRF, you can help ensure that JDRF continues funding research until a cure is found. JDRF’s Planned Giving opportunities provide flexibility and can even provide generous income and tax benefits. Here are four ways to make your commitment to JDRF last.

1. Include JDRF in your living trust/will.
   - Your will or living trust can include a gift to JDRF. Provide your attorney with a few sentences such as, “I give and devise to JDRF, a nonprofit organization with headquarters in New York, NY, the sum of $_______ or _______ percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate for its general purposes (or for the support of diabetes research).”

2. Establish a charitable gift annuity.
   - Make a gift that provides you with income for life — and will support revolutionary T1D research. You can fund your gift with cash or appreciated securities. You and/or your spouse will be eligible for an income tax deduction and will receive fixed quarterly payments at an attractive rate for the remainder of your lives. Please contact JDRF’s Planned Giving department to request a sample proposal.

3. Make JDRF a beneficiary.
   - Update your beneficiary designation form provided by your insurer or retirement plan administrator to name JDRF as a beneficiary.
   - **Retirement Savings Plans**
     - Your planned gift can make a huge impact on T1D research. That’s because JDRF is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Instead of being taxed upon withdrawal, every dime of the retirement assets you donate to JDRF will help fund research for a cure, prevention and better treatments.
   - **Life Insurance Policies**
     - Life insurance is a way to safeguard your loved ones. But later in life, you may be in the position to change your beneficiary to JDRF. We’d be honored to carry on your legacy as an avid T1D research supporter.

4. Set up a charitable remainder trust.
   - A charitable remainder trust (CRT) is another option with important tax and financial benefits. With a CRT, you and up to eight beneficiaries can receive income from the trust for your lifetimes or for a predetermined number of years. When the trust ends, the remaining assets will pass to JDRF. A CRT can be funded with cash, appreciated securities, real estate, or other property.

MEDICARE PAVES THE WAY FOR COVERAGE OF CGM DEVICES

Every day, we strive to find a way to cure, prevent and better treat T1D. However, we can only truly make a difference for millions living with this disease if they can access and afford new advancements.

That’s why it was so exciting in January 2017 when the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recognized continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) devices as durable medical equipment for the first time — a major prerequisite for any device to be covered by Medicare.

Now, all seniors with T1D who have Medicare may apply for coverage. If approved, they will no longer have to pay out-of-pocket or live without this life-changing device because of expense.

This is a huge win for the T1D community and its supporters!

Extensive studies demonstrate how CGM devices prevent dangerous low blood sugar episodes — something seniors with T1D are at a higher risk for. Fewer fluctuations between healthy and abnormal blood sugar levels also mean fewer costly, time-consuming and stressful trips to the hospital.

Aaron J. Kowalski, PhD, JDRF’s Chief Mission Officer, put it perfectly by saying,

“We want to thank the tireless JDRF advocates and congressional champions who have made this progress possible.”

We still have work to do to get CGM devices covered completely by all health insurers. However, we’ve taken one huge step toward this goal. We can’t wait to see what life will be like for hundreds of thousands once they’re able to better manage their T1D with the help of CGM devices. Thank you for being a part of this monumental achievement.